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February 9, 2001 LB 179

Senator Hilgert and Jensen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You did not want your light on, did you, Senator Schimek? Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, on advancement of LB 179.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I'm going to be very brief, but this...this area has bothered me for quite awhile. I remember the last two, maybe four years we've had this issue and I'm not going...I guess this will be neutral testimony. I support...I'm glad Senator Beutler's amendment is on there because I do think there's room for some mischief on some of these areas. I understand the dilemma of local boards having trouble getting membership. On the other hand, if those boards are important, zoning, planning are very important, and I think they ought to take their responsibilities very seriously. But doing it this way, which I think Senator Beutler's amendment helps by making that designation, otherwise you do run the risk of appointing those members back and forth. Someone can't come, deliberately stays away, which may not be logical but may be held away, then it's a...an alternate can come in and make a critical vote on some of those, is the way I've observed them working over the years. So, at this point, with Senator Beutler's, I'm going to support it, but I simply wanted to acknowledge that I'm not all that comfortable with it either. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Hilgert, and this is your third time.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Beutler, I have a correction to make and this might invite an amendment, maybe not. The...according to the statute, as it's written, an alternate serves in the absence of a regular member. Therefore, should the regular member appear, the regular member would therefore no longer be absent; therefore, the alternate would no longer be seated and the regular member would be seated. So I just wanted to make sure that I was accurate with you and clear about that. And regarding Senator Wehrbein's comments, I agree with them as well. In fact, one of the questions I asked when I was...when it was requested that I